

The Parable of the Seed

*By Ryan Umari
Illustrated by Luis Peres*



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Printed in the United States of America

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Dedication

While this book is about all of us being seeds from a Divine tree, we have similar connections with our earthly parents and children.


This book is dedicated to my parents, two very honorable trees from which I was a seed. And to my daughter, my little seed who has grown into her own strong, beautiful tree..

Acknowledgments

I'd like to express an enormous thanks to Luis Peres, for capturing the spirit of this story in his illustrations, and for believing in and putting his heart into this project! Thanks also to Sabartstudio for edits on the book and cover, and to Naomi Ruth for her work on a beautiful layout and completion of the finished book.

I would also like to thank God, and his son Jesus Christ for the love and guiding influence I've felt through most of my life, and through which the progression toward the infinite potential of the soul has been made possible.

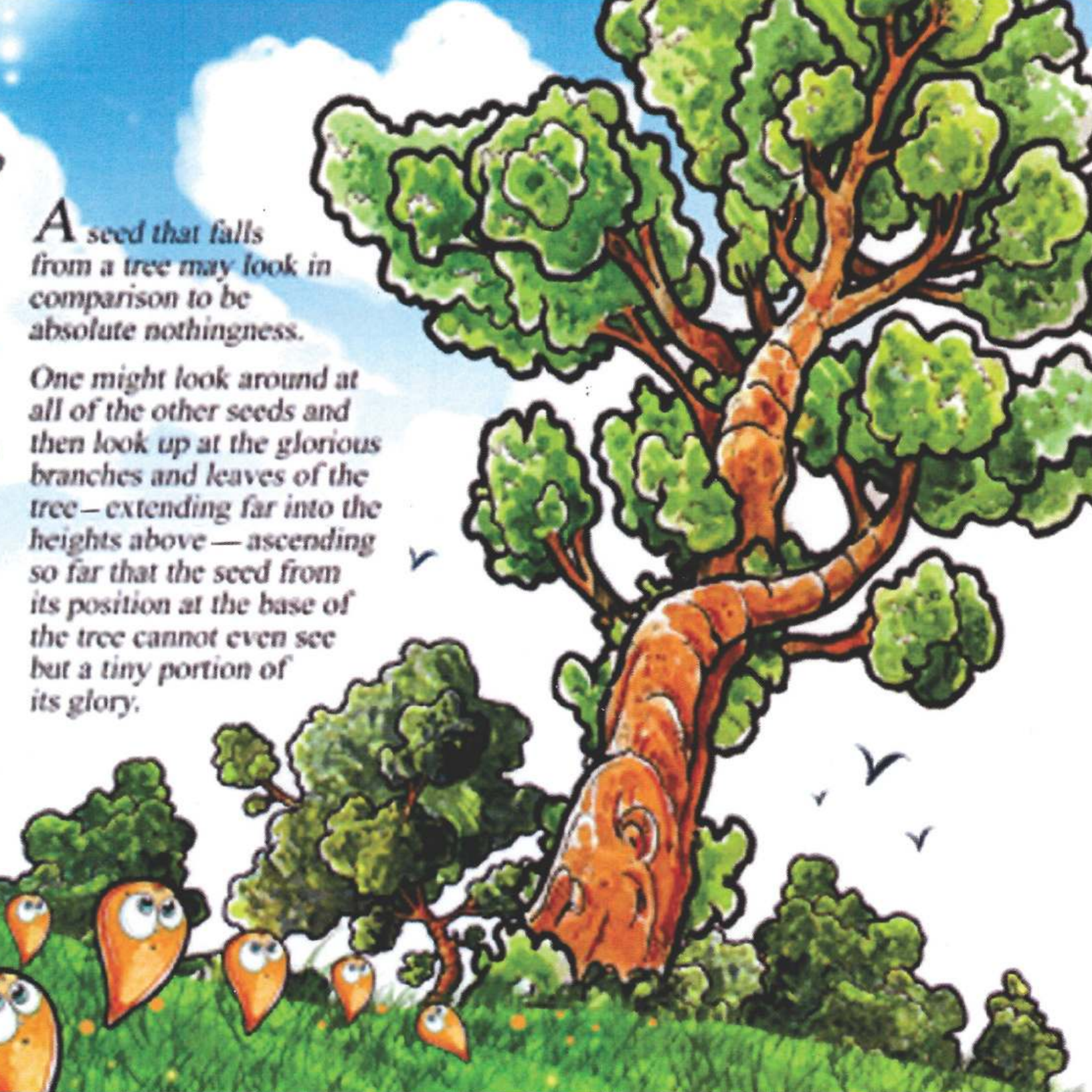
"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." (Acts 17:29)



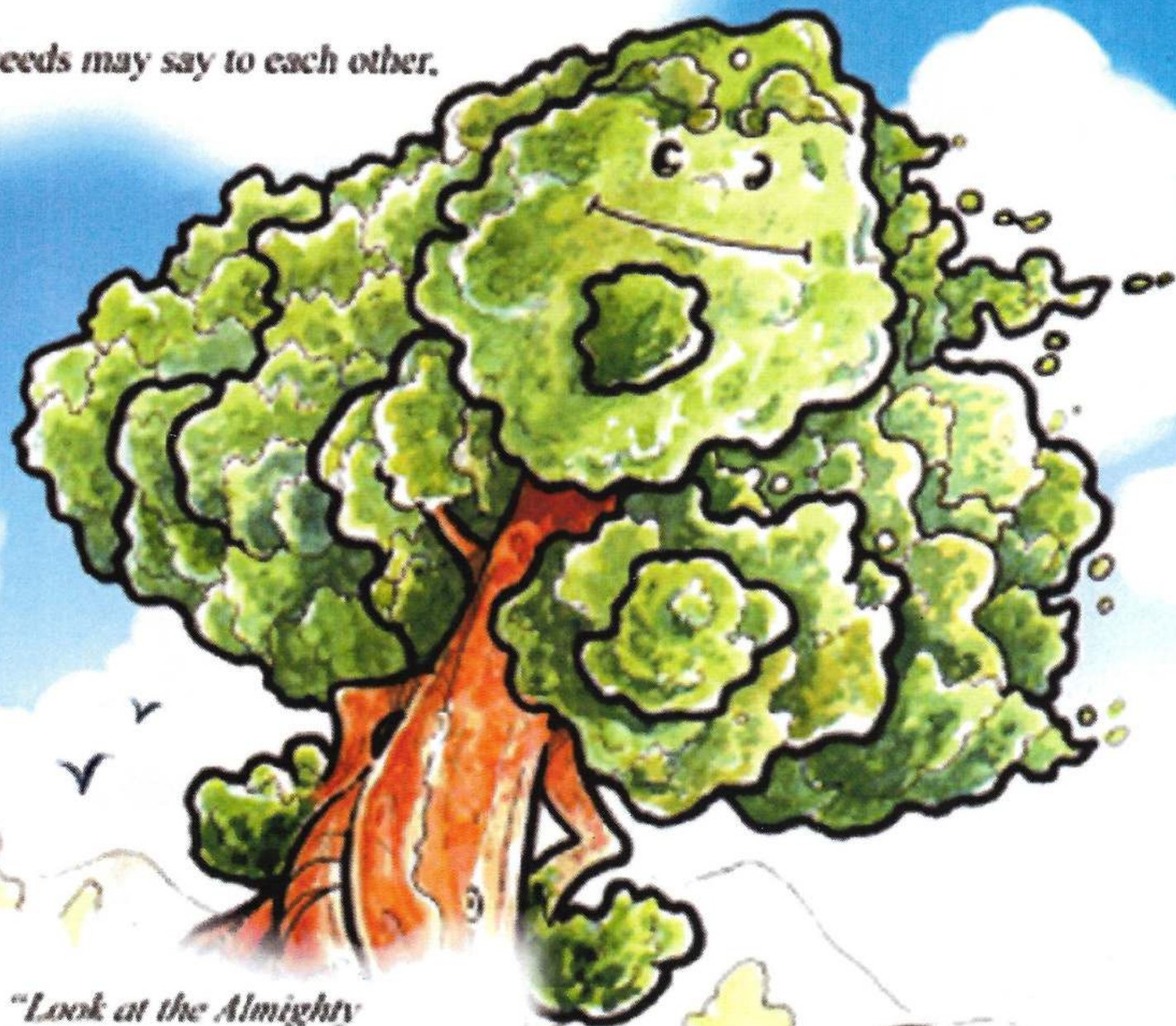
The biblical teaching that human souls are the very "offspring" of God provides a revelatory understanding of human identity and potential.

A seed that falls from a tree may look in comparison to be absolute nothingness.

One might look around at all of the other seeds and then look up at the glorious branches and leaves of the tree—extending far into the heights above—ascending so far that the seed from its position at the base of the tree cannot even see but a tiny portion of its glory.

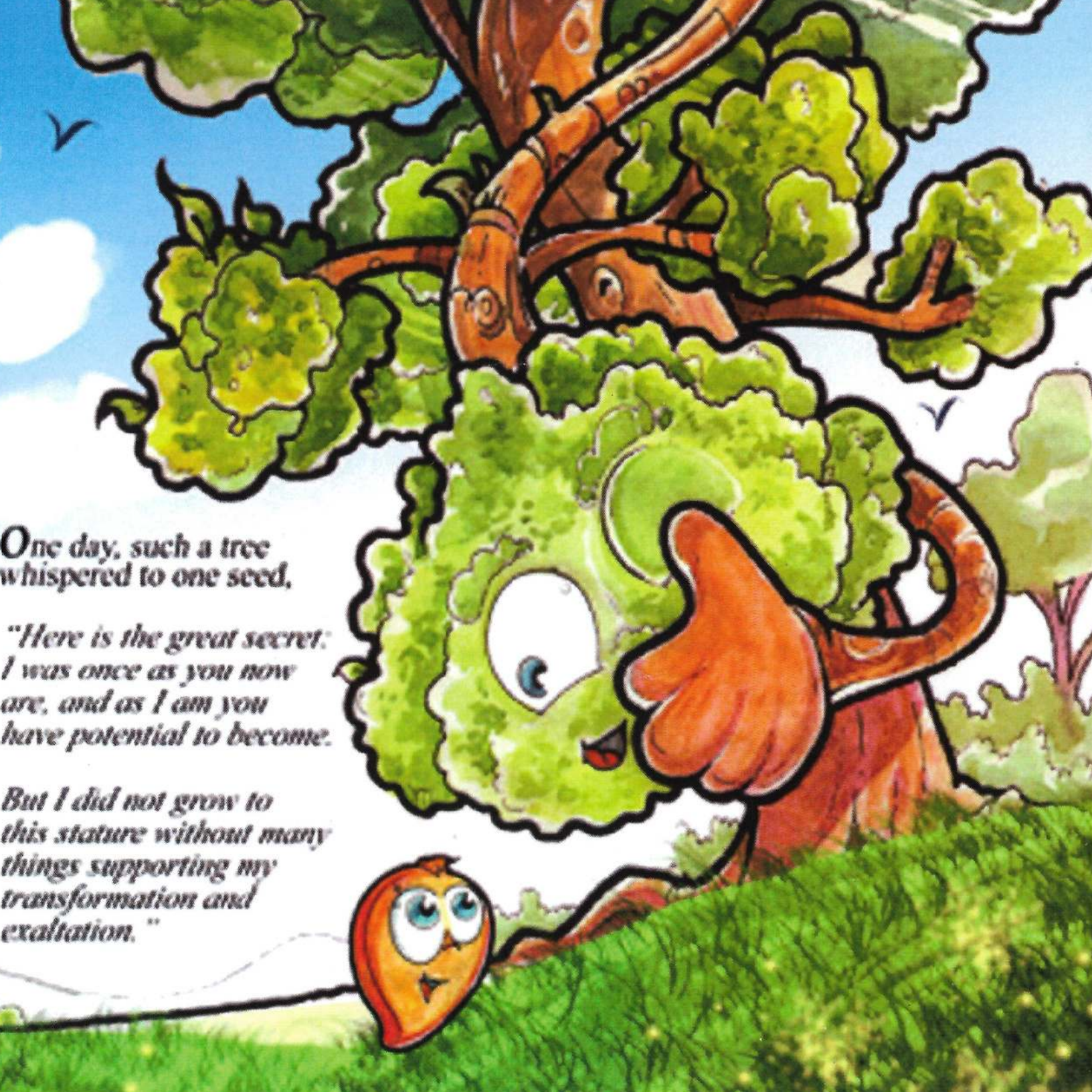


The seeds may say to each other,



*"Look at the Almighty
and glorious tree above us;
we are certainly no such thing,
we are certainly an entirely
different species."*





One day, such a tree
whispered to one seed,

*"Here is the great secret:
I was once as you now
are, and as I am you
have potential to become.*

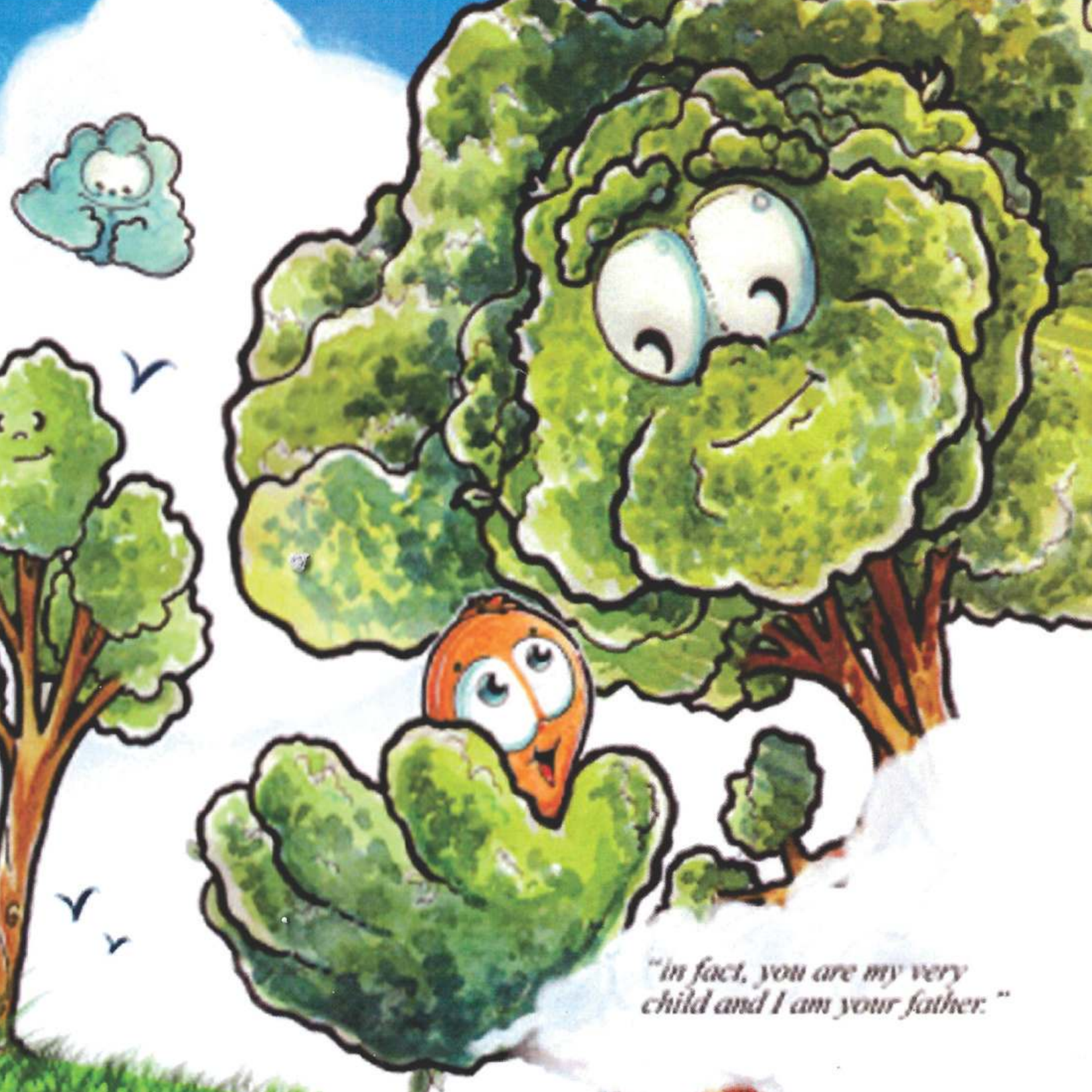
*But I did not grow to
this stature without many
things supporting my
transformation and
exaltation."*

*"I was first planted firmly in the ground
and then I drank water from the rain and took
nourishment from the sun.*

*I followed line upon line and precept upon precept,
as I obeyed principles upon which seeds can become trees,
and according to those laws I did progress, slowly.. but over time
I received height upon height, growth after growth until
I did become the very size and stature
that you see before you."*



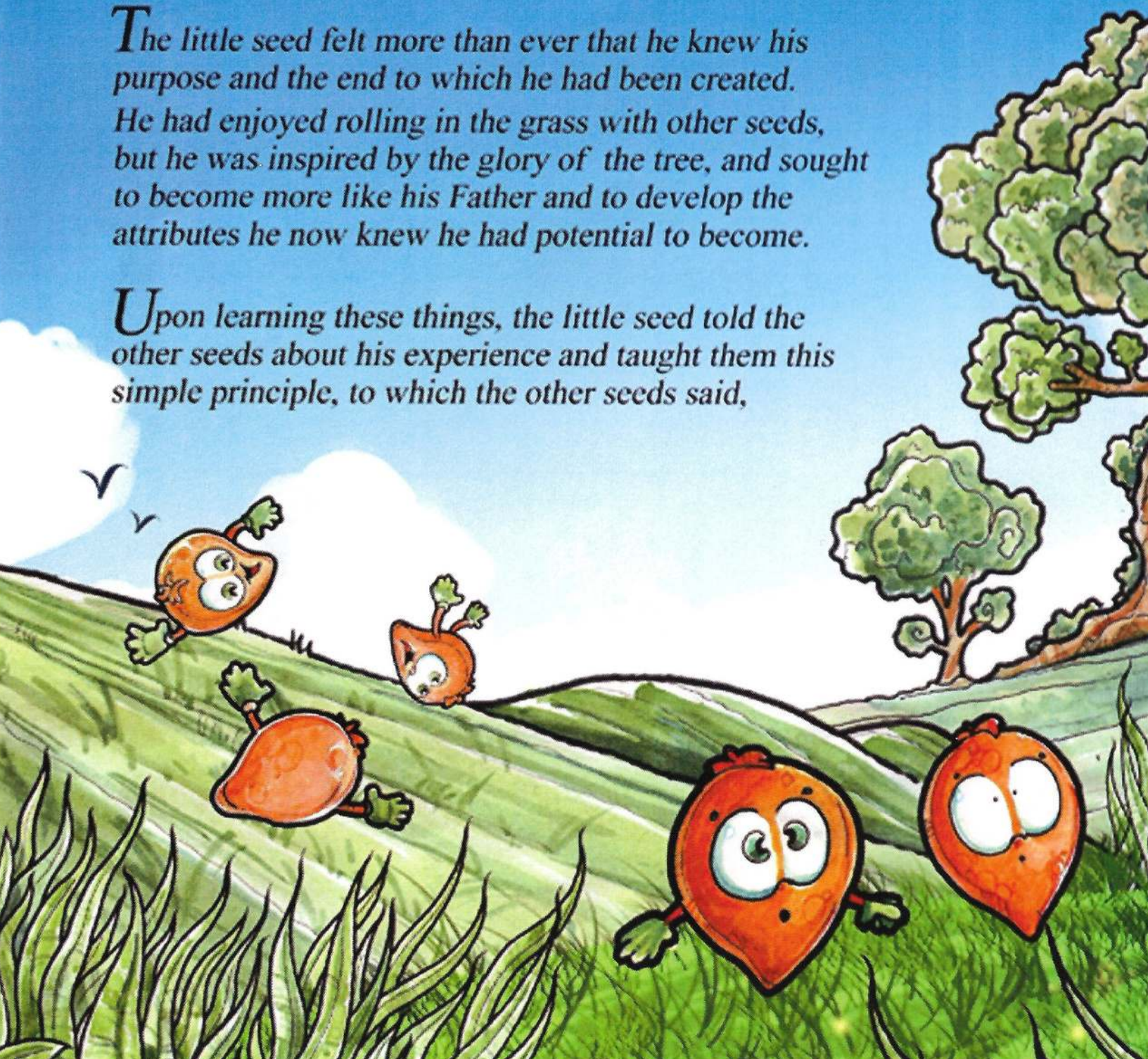
*"I must let you
know, little seed,
you have this same
potential to grow
according to the
same principles."*



*"In fact, you are my very
child and I am your father."*

The little seed felt more than ever that he knew his purpose and the end to which he had been created. He had enjoyed rolling in the grass with other seeds, but he was inspired by the glory of the tree, and sought to become more like his Father and to develop the attributes he now knew he had potential to become.

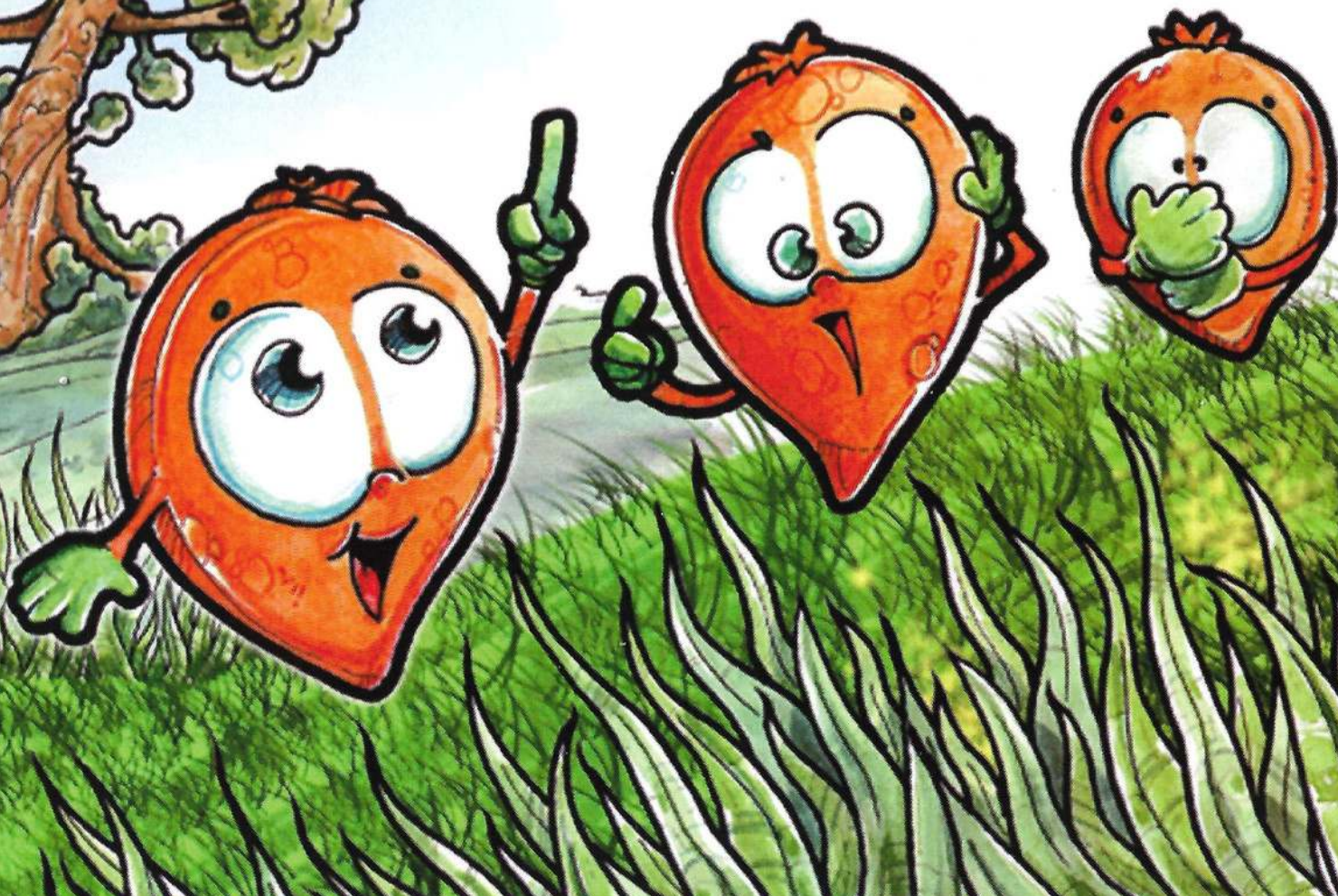
Upon learning these things, the little seed told the other seeds about his experience and taught them this simple principle, to which the other seeds said,





"You blaspheme the tree to say that you are his child, you are nothing like him. Look at his magnificence, his perfection, his power, his glory.

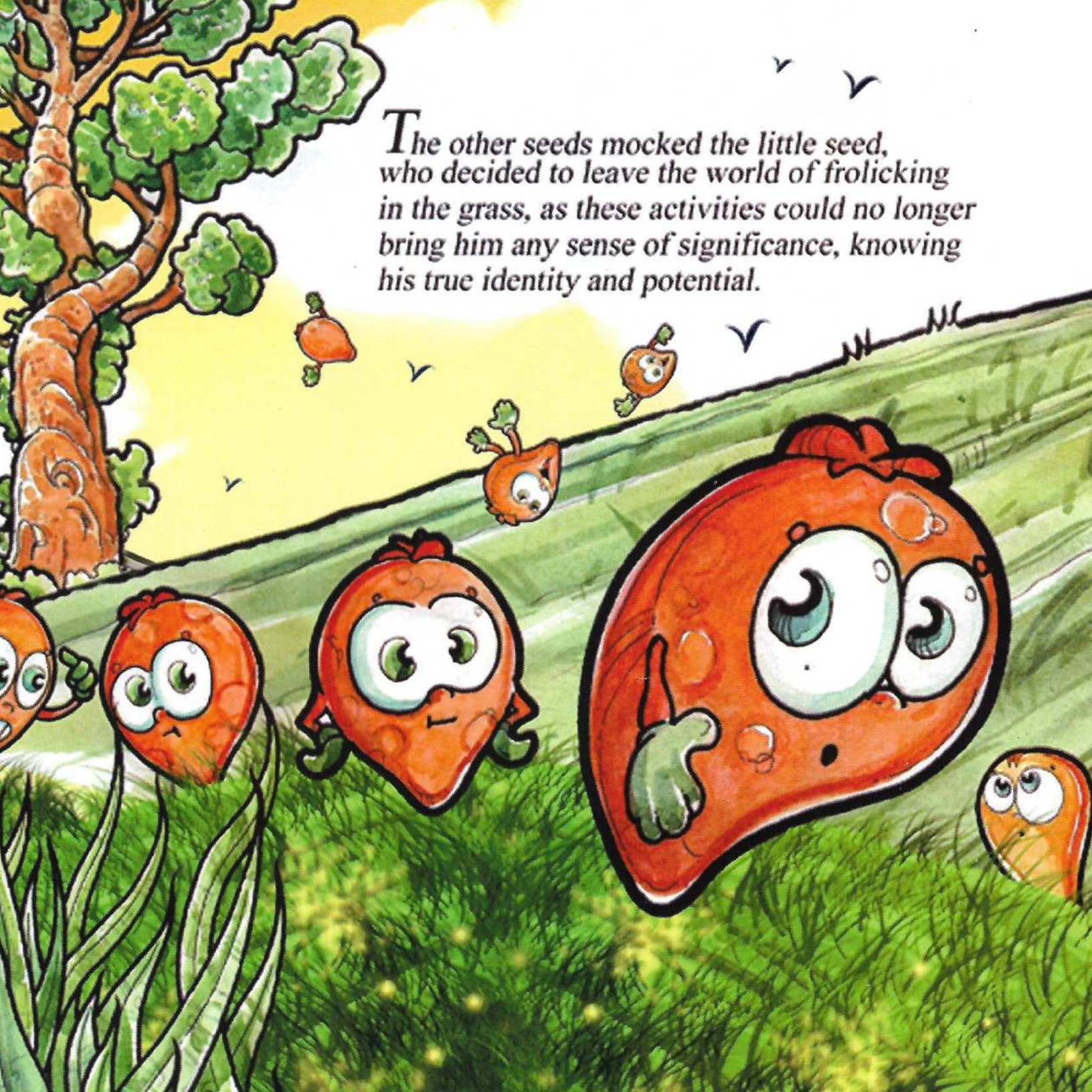
You are none of these things. And none of these things will you become."



To this, the little seed replied,

"But my Father taught me that on principles which transform seeds into trees, I might become exalted from my inferior state, little by little, over the course of great lengths of time, through obedience to these laws by which trees grow from seeds."



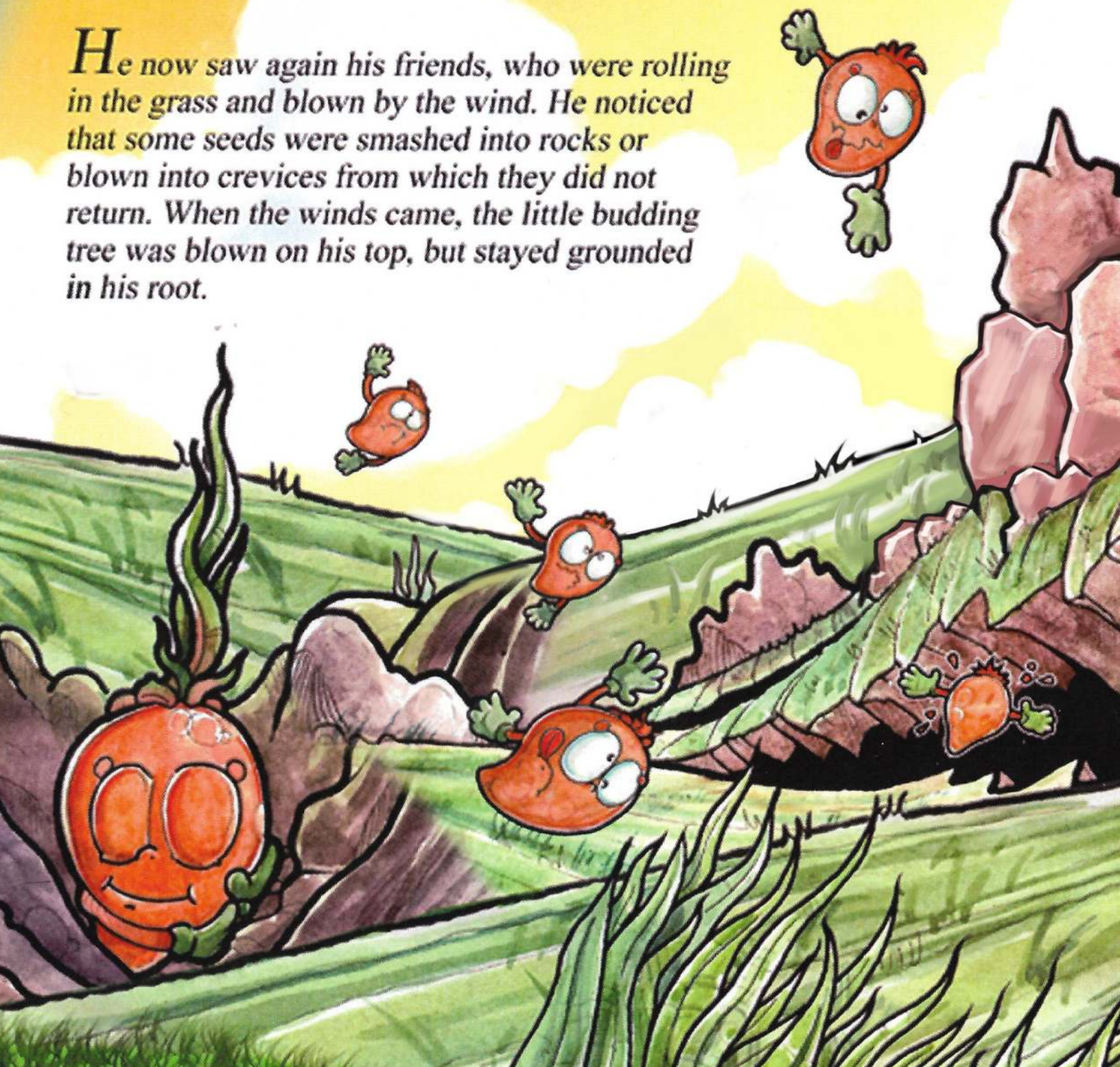


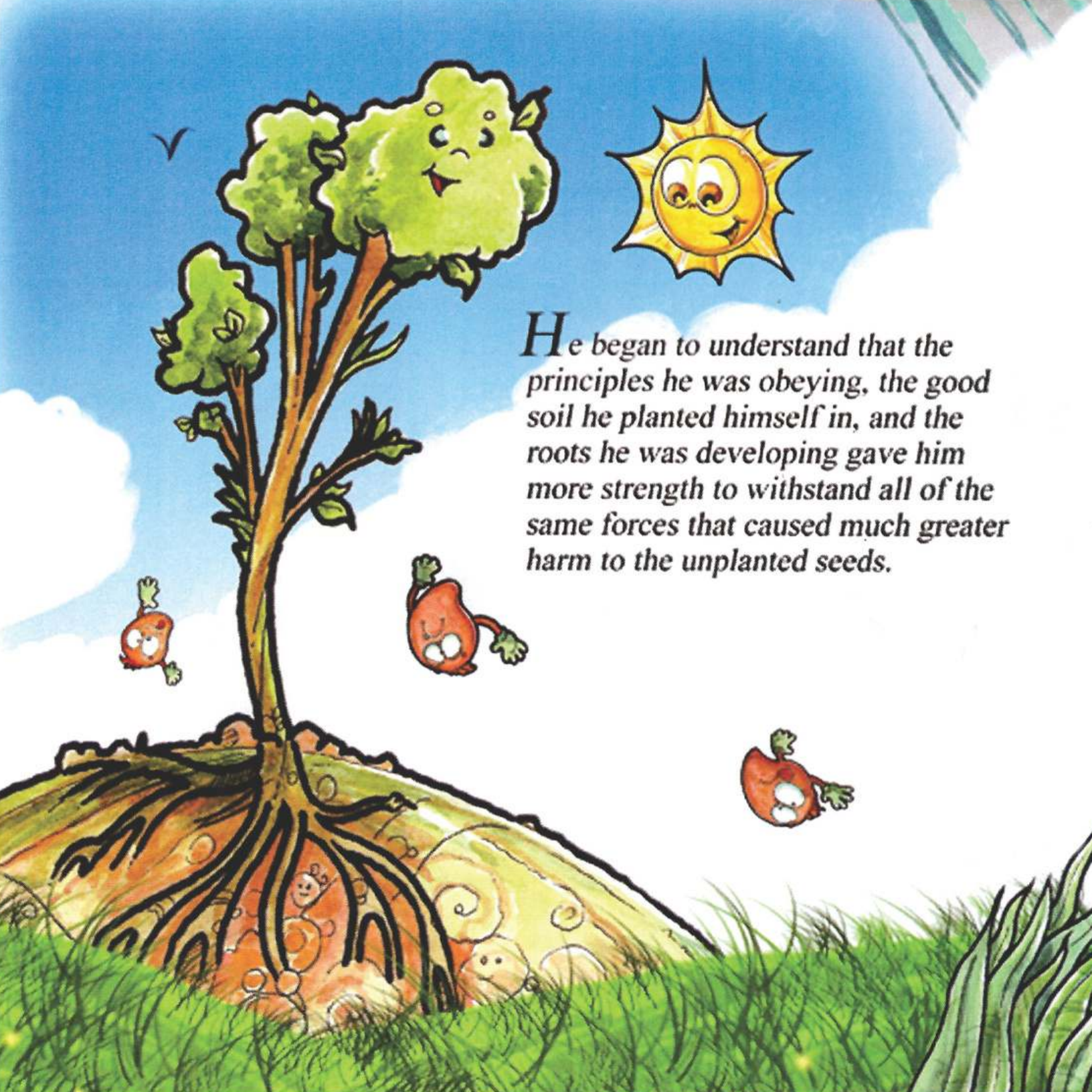
The other seeds mocked the little seed,
who decided to leave the world of frolicking
in the grass, as these activities could no longer
bring him any sense of significance, knowing
his true identity and potential.

The little seed planted himself firmly in the ground and began to nurture himself according to the same principles of growth taught by his Father. He drank in the rain, and took in nourishment from the sun. He thus sprouted his first tiny root and soon grew right up out of the ground.



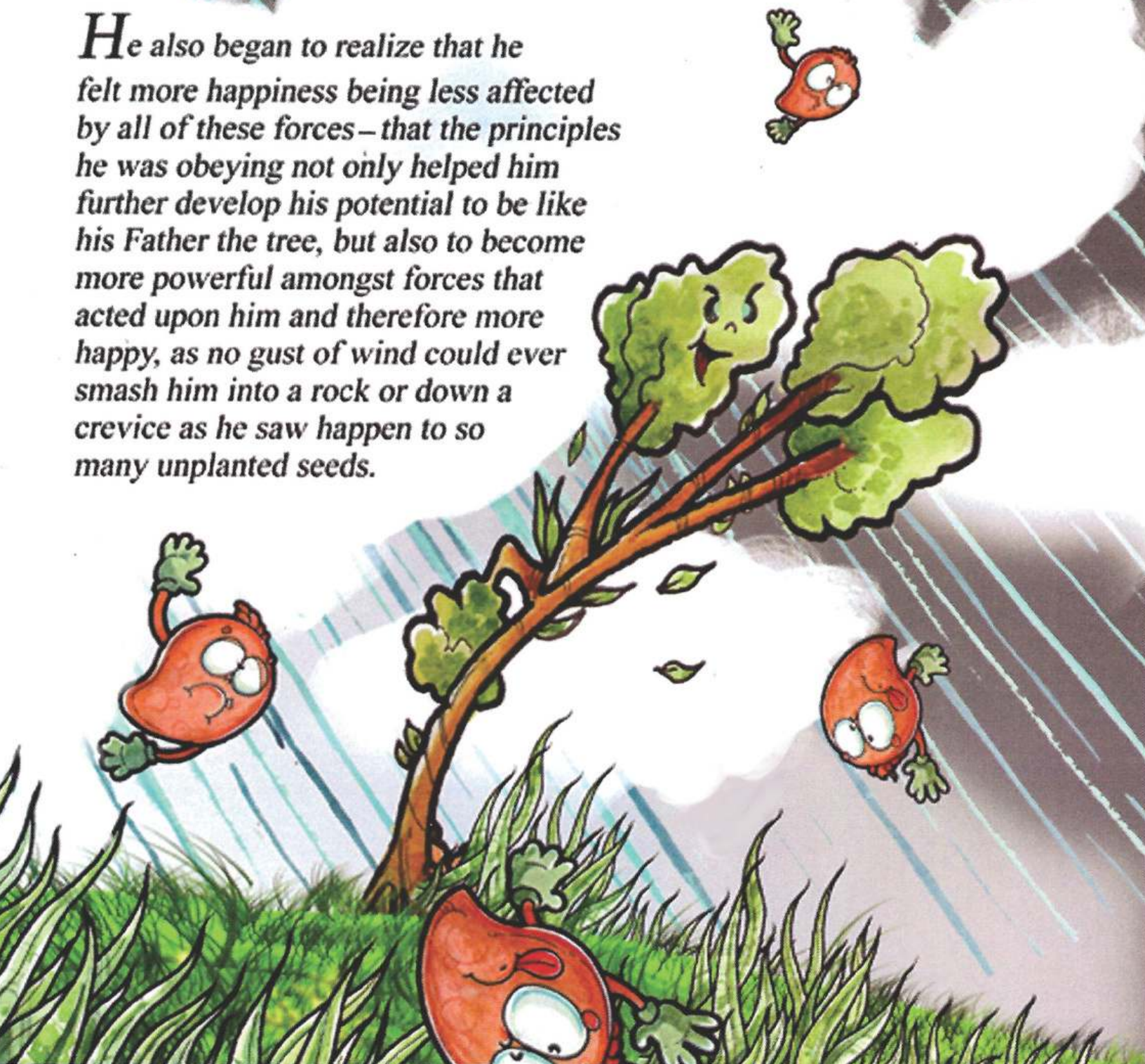
He now saw again his friends, who were rolling in the grass and blown by the wind. He noticed that some seeds were smashed into rocks or blown into crevices from which they did not return. When the winds came, the little budding tree was blown on his top, but stayed grounded in his root.





He began to understand that the principles he was obeying, the good soil he planted himself in, and the roots he was developing gave him more strength to withstand all of the same forces that caused much greater harm to the unplanted seeds.

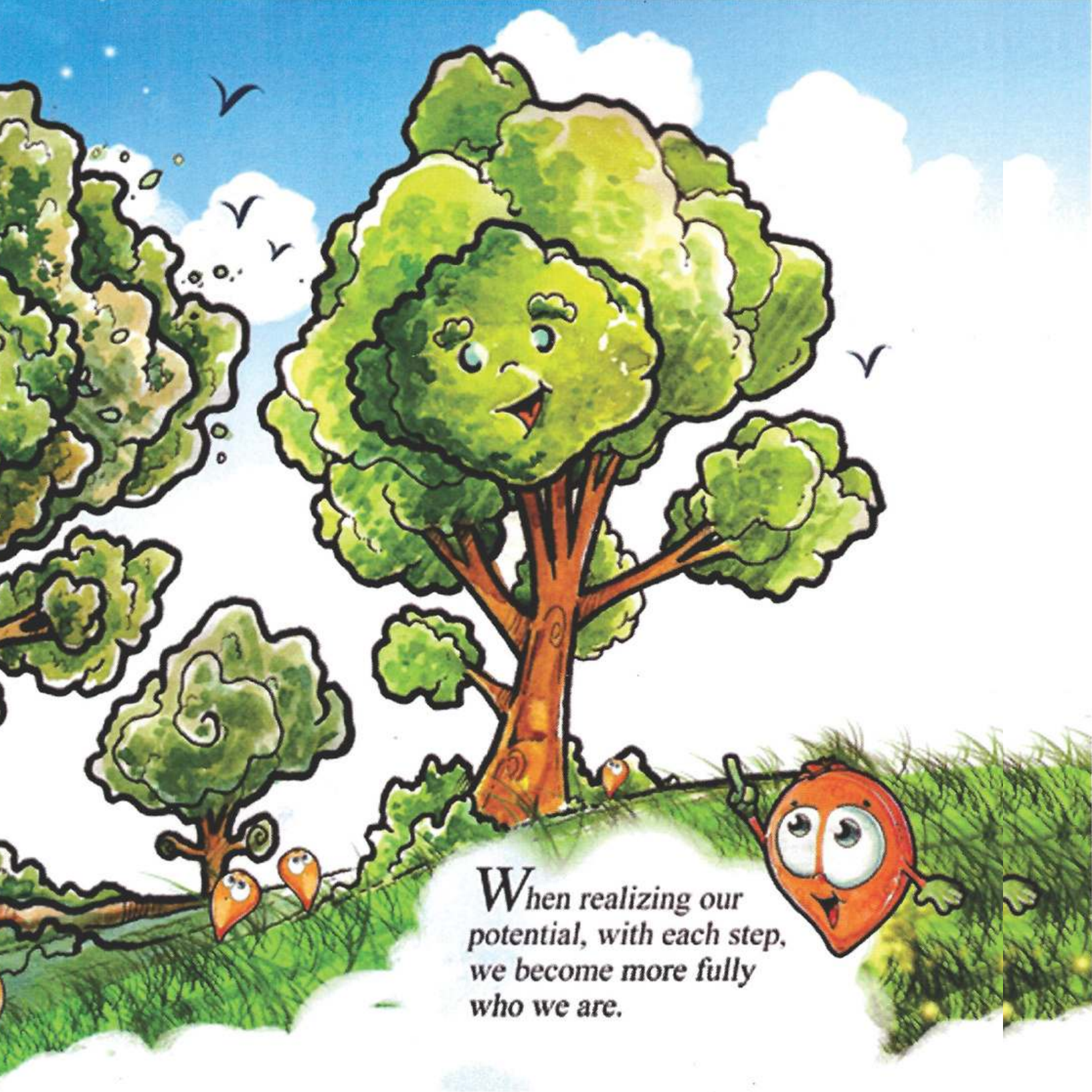
He also began to realize that he felt more happiness being less affected by all of these forces – that the principles he was obeying not only helped him further develop his potential to be like his Father the tree, but also to become more powerful amongst forces that acted upon him and therefore more happy, as no gust of wind could ever smash him into a rock or down a crevice as he saw happen to so many unplanted seeds.



In this manner can souls slowly grow to become the very image and likeness of God himself, according to laws by which the soul is progressed.. in the same way that the body of a newborn child grows into that of an infant, then a toddler, then a young child, young adult and eventually a full grown adult.

Where spiritual potential is realized, happiness follows, as there is inherent joy in fulfilling one's greater potential.





*When realizing our
potential, with each step,
we become more fully
who we are.*